

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166632
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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166632

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 11870 ACTION SECSTATE JUL 16

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11870

NODIS

DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS JULY 16

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD, US

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF STATE 166492,

1. DEPT ALREADY AWARE FROM PREVIOUS MESSAGES OF SADAT'S
DEEP CONCER ABOUT CHADIAN SITUATION AND HIS APPEAL TO US TO
PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PRES MALLOUM, EITHER DIRECTLY
OR THROUGH EGYPT AND/OR SUDAN. WE HAVE TOLD HIM OF CHADIAN
VP'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND HE WILL BE ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO
HEAR WHAT COMES OUT OF THAT VISIT. PRESS REPORTS HE HAS
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BEEN IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH FRENCH PRES GISCARD AND
KING HASSAN OF MOROCCO YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER
THINGS, CHADIAN SITUATION.

2. SADAT WOULD CERTAINLY AGREE THAT LIBYAN VIOLATION OF
CHAD'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY SETS AN UNDESIRABLE PRCEDENT,
THOUGH HE WOULD REGARD THIS AS SOMETHING OF AN UNDERSTATE-

MENT. HE WOULD REGARD IDEA OF CONVOKING A MEETING OF "FRIENDS OF CHAD" TO EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH EACH MIGHT HELP AS AN EVASION OF WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A SUPER-POWER TO ASSIST CHAD. NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD EXPECT THAT HE WOULD AUTHORIZE GOE PARTICIPATION. HE HAS ALREADY SENT SMALL ARMS TO CHAD, SPECIFICALLY 1,000 RIFLES WITH AMMO AS WELL AS MORTAR AMMO. HE HAS APPARENTLY ALSO PROVIDED ONE "AIR DEFENSE DIVISION", WHATEVER THAT MAY MEAN. THIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DELIVERED IN THREE COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORTS CONCEALED IN CRATES WITH RED CROSS MARKINGS. SADAT MAY BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL SMALL ARMS, BUT FACT IS THAT HIS MILITARY LARDER IS RUNNING OUT. AS FAHMY SAID TO ME YESTERDAY, GOE IS PROVIDING SMALL AMRS TO SOMALIA, CHAD, TANZANIA, SUDAN (AND PERHAPS OTHERS), BUT IT SIMPLY CANNOT GO ON DOING SO IN THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF SOME REPLACEMENTS. HE WAS MAKING HIS POINT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING UNWILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SOME ARMS FOR DESPATCH TO THREATENED MODERATE AFRICAN REGIMES.

3. PROVISION BY US OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT WOULD BE WELCOMENED BY GOE, BUT WILL BE CONSIDERED INADEQUATE. SADAT WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF USG WOULD PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER GOVTS IN PROVISION OF ARMS TO CHAD AND, IF WE WISH, WOULD DOUBTLESS URGE FRENCH OR OTHERS TO TAKE THE LEAD.

4. ANY WILLINGNESS ON OUR PART TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF US-CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM ONE OR MORE THIRD COUNTRIES TO CHAD WOULD ALSO BE WELCOMED. SHOULD BE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY, SADAT WOULD DOUBTLESS BE WILLING TO URGE SAUDIS, JORDANIANS OR ZAIRIANS TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THIS REGARD.
EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

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